

**PATENT****Application # 10/002,277****Attorney Docket # 1999-0707 (1014-151)****AMENDMENTS****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing data traffic status of a network, comprising:
  - monitoring data traffic over the network via a device not directly connected to a first local area network of a traffic source, the device not directly connected to a second local area network, wherein the data traffic includes at least one of data and voice traffic;
  - determining a traffic level of at least one site of the network, wherein the second local area network comprises the at least one site; and
  - selectively displaying traffic information to a subscriber not directly connected to the first local area network, the second local area network, or the device, the traffic information based on the traffic level.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the traffic level further includes comparing the data traffic of a plurality of sites to determine a relative traffic volume.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of sites share a common attribute.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the common attribute is at least one of selling similar products, providing similar types of service and providing similar types of information.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining the traffic level further includes comparing current data traffic for the at least one site to a historical data traffic record.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the historical data traffic record is data traffic to the at least one site for a preceding period of time.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring the data traffic over the network further includes obtaining an originating address and a destination address for the traffic over the network.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the originating address and destination address are obtained from a portion of the data traffic traveling over the network.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the traffic information includes at least an address of the at least one site.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the traffic information further includes a rate of the data traffic of the at least one site.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a subscriber of traffic flow to one or more sites on a network, comprising:

monitoring data traffic to the one or more sites over the network via a device not directly connected to a first local area network of a traffic source, the device not directly connected to a second local area network, wherein the data traffic includes at least one of data and voice traffic;

generating a traffic notification when an amount of data traffic to at least one or more of the sites on the network meets at least one predetermined threshold, wherein the second local area network comprises the at least one or more sites; and

transmitting the traffic notification to the subscriber, the subscriber not directly connected to the first local area network, the second local area network, or the device.

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12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein determining the traffic level further includes comparing the data traffic of a plurality of sites to determine a relative traffic volume.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of sites are generally related to each other.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of sites share a common attribute.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the common attribute is at least one of selling similar products, providing similar types of service and providing similar types of information.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein monitoring the traffic level further includes comparing current data traffic for the at least one site to a historical data traffic record.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the historical data traffic record is data traffic to the at least one site for a preceding period of time.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein monitoring the data traffic over the network further includes obtaining an originating address and a destination address for the traffic over the network.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the originating address and destination address are obtained from a portion of the data traffic traveling over the network.

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20. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the traffic information includes at least an address of the at least one site.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the traffic information further includes a rate of the data traffic of the at least one site.

22. (Currently Amended) A device that provides data traffic status of a network, comprising:  
a network interface;  
a subscriber database that stores information related to subscribers; and  
a controller, coupled to the network interface and the subscriber database, that monitors data traffic over the network, determines a traffic level of at least one site of the network, the controller not directly connected to a first local area network of a traffic source, the device not directly connected to a second local area network comprising the at least one site, wherein the controller and selectively displays traffic information to at least one subscriber based on the traffic level, wherein the data traffic includes at least one of data and voice traffic, wherein the subscriber is not directly connected to the first local area network, the second local area network or the controller.

23. (Original) The device according to claim 22, wherein determining the traffic level further includes comparing the data traffic of a plurality of sites to determine a relative traffic volume.

24. (Original) The device according to claim 23, wherein the plurality of sites share a common attribute.

25. (Original) The device according to claim 24, wherein the common attribute is at least one of selling similar products, providing similar types of service and providing similar types of information.

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26. (Original) The device according to claim 22, further comprising a network traffic memory coupled to the controller, wherein determining the traffic level further includes comparing current data traffic for the at least one site to a historical data traffic record stored in the network traffic memory.

27. (Original) The device according to claim 26, wherein the historical data traffic record is traffic to the at least one site for a preceding period of time.

28. (Original) The device according to claim 22, wherein monitoring the data traffic over the network further includes obtaining an originating address and a destination address for the traffic over the network.

29. (Original) The device according to claim 28, wherein the originating address and destination address are obtained from a portion of the data traffic traveling over the network.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the traffic information includes at least an address of at least one site.

31. (Original) The device according to claim 30, wherein the traffic information further includes a rate of the data traffic of the at least one site.